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DO 501 Basic Christian Theology

Allan Coppedge

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DO 501
BASIC CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
FALL 1998
Dr. Allan Coppedge

I. PURPOSE

The design of this course is to provide an introduction to basic Christian theology. This initial presentation of doctrine will focus upon the categories Asbury shares in common with Evangelical Orthodoxy, the areas in which Asbury Theological Seminary represents a distinctive doctrinal position, and an introduction to the major themes in systematic theology. The course is structured to demonstrate the place of Christian truth in the life of discipleship and its relevance for the tasks of Christian ministry.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the uniqueness of the supernatural character of God, with special reference to His relation to the creation. To understand the implications of this doctrine for all systematic theology.
2. To understand the means a supernatural God uses to communicate with men who are a part of the natural world and the implications for the question of authority.
3. To understand the significance of the holiness of God as an organizing concept for all systematic theology and its relation to each of the several doctrines of Christian thought. Special attention is given to the unique commitment of A.T. S. to the Wesleyan understanding of Christian holiness.
4. To understand the significance of the whole moral character of God for the doctrines related predestination. To appreciate the distinctions between the Armenian and Calvinistic interpretations and the implications of each for the Christian life. Special attention is given to the relationship of each position to Christian holiness and discipleship.
5. To understand and be able to use the basic vocabulary and concepts of every major area of systematic theology.
6. To recognize the practical implications of systematic theology for the daily life of individual disciples of Christ as well as the collective body of believers.

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. Study assignments: Reading with outlines and notes of assigned material. A collateral chart (attached) should be kept which would include a record of the number of hours per week spent reading, out-lining and taking notes. The number of hours studied will determine the grade options available to the student for the entire course.
To be eligible to earn any grade up through an
 “A” a total of at least 78 hours per semester or about 6 hours per week.
 “B” at least 72 hours per semester or about 5 1/2 hours per week.
 “C” at least 65 hours per semester or about 5 hours per week.
At least 58 hours per term is required for a passing grade.
2. A notebook should be kept of all outlines and study notes taken (but not

classnotes), plus a record of the student's reading and hours. A grade will be given the notebook based on the quality of the outlines and notes taken, the number of hours spent on assignment, and the completion of assignments on time. It will constitute 33.3% of the final grade.

3. Two essay examinations will be given, each constituting 33.3% of the final grade. One will be a mid-term, Friday, October 16; and the final will be Thursday, December 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Each exam will constitute 33.3% of the final grade.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

1. **Required:**
Thomas Oden, The Living God.
_____, The Word Of Life.
_____, Life In The Spirit.
2. **Recommended:**
Allan Coppedge, The Roles of God (in mss form).
Mildred Wynkoop, Foundations of Wesleyan-Arminian Theology. Copies available through Barnabas Foundation.
3. **Requested in class:**
The Holy Bible.

V. CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance and participation is assumed. A record of absences from class should be kept on the collateral sheet. More than three unexcused absences could adversely effect the student's final grade.

VI. READING SCHEDULE

See Separate Sheets

READING SCHEDULE

- September 8 – 11 Oden, The Living God, IX-XV, 11-130. (Read and take notes)
- Recommended (as time permits)*
Oden, The Living God, 133-180.
- September 14 – 18 Oden, The Living God, 181-234, 227-234, 240-269.
Coppedge, The Role of God, chapter 1; pp. 1-15.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
Harry Blamires, The Christian-Mind, chapter 3, “It’s Supernatural Orientation.”
- September 21 – 25 Oden, The Living God, 270-315.
Coppedge, The Role of God, chapter 2, pp. 17-28; chapter 3, pp. 30-62.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
Francis Shaeffer, Genesis In Space And Time, 13-66.
- September 22 – October 2 Oden, The Living God, 319-370.
A. Coppedge, “How Wesley and Do Theology,” Doing Theology In Today’s World.
ed. Woodbridge & McComiskey, 267-286.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
Oden, The Living God, 375-406.
Blamires, The Christian Mind, chapter 5, “Conceptions of Truth.”
- October 5 – 9 H.N. Ridderbos, The Authority Of The N.T. Scriptures, 13-51.
J.I. Packer, “Fundamentalism” And The Word Of God, 41-74.
“Chicago Statement of Biblical Inerrancy.” (in syllabus)
- Recommended (as time permits)*
Blamires, The Christian Mind, chapter 6, “It’s Acceptance of Authority.”
- October 12 – 16 Oden, The Word Of Life, IX-XVII, 1-7, 13-92.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
Oden The Word Of Life, 197-228.
- October 19 – 23 Oden, The Word Of Life, 93-144, 164-194, 279-314.
Delbert Rose, “The Wesleyan Understanding of Sin,” The Doctrinal Distinctives of ATS, 7-30.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
Oden, The Word Of Life, 229-278.

- October 26 – 30 Oden, The Word Of Life, 344-414, 429-450, 502-525.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
 Oden, The Word Of Life, 317-343.
 Emil Brunner, The Mediator, chapters XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI.
- November 2 – 6 Oden, Life In The Spirit, 1-8, 15-108.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
 Harold Kuhn, Doctrinal Distinctions of ATS, “The Witness of the Spirit,” 55-77.
- November 9 – 13 Oden, Life In The Spirit, 108-119, 128-170.
 Coppedge, The Promise Of Something More
 Coppedge, Roles of God, Chapter 8, pp. 196-217.
- Recommended (as time permits)*
 Oden, Life In The Spirit, 177-193.
- November 16 – 27 Oden, Life In The Spirit, 193-246, 246-257.
 Coppedge, When The Holy Spirit Comes
 Coppedge, Roles of God, Chapter 8, pp. 218-238.
- November 30 –
 December 4 Oden, Life In The Spirit, 261-274, 279-310, 315-327, 337-343, 349-355.
 Wynkoop, Foundatiions of Wesleyan – Arminian Theology, Chapters 1-2.
- December 7 – 11 Oden, Life In The Spirit, 369-386, 390-468.
 Wynkoop, Foundations, Chapters 3-5.